Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05998 141920Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR REACTION TO RABIN VISIT TO WEST BERLIN

1. THE GDR HAS FINALLY ECHOED SOVIET CRITICISM OF THE JULY 8 VISIT TO WEST BERLIN BY ISRAELI MINISTER PRESIDENT RABIN WITH A STRONGLY-WORDED SIGNED COMMENTARY IN THE JULY 12/13 EDITION OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND/ TITLED "STORM MANUEVER AGAINST DETENTE". THE AUTHOR INTERPRETS THE RABIN VISIT AS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE THE QUARDRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND TURN BERLIN INTO A "BONE OF CONTENTION" IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. QUOTING FROM JULY 11 PRAVDA ARTICLE, COMMENTARY STATES THAT THE RABIN VISIT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE FACT THAT WEST BERLIN DOES NOT BELONG TO AND WILL NOT BE GOVERNED BY THE FRG.

2. ND COMMENTARY GOES ON TO CRITICIZE FRG FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND ACCUSES FRG OF USING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN "AGGRESSOR STATE" TO DO BATTLE AGAINST DETENTE IN EUROPE. ARTICLE CONCULDES BY CALLING THE VISIT A "CHEAP ACT" AND AN OCCASION FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN DETENTE TO "STRENGTHEN THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05998 141920Z

EFFORTS, SO THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OVER BERLIN WILL

BE FULLY RESPECTED AND REALIZED" IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A "NORMAL AND QUIET ATMOSPHERE" AROUND BERLIN.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR HAS LONG BEEN SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI POLICIES. THAT NEUES DEUTSCHLAND HELD OFF A FEW DAYS BEFORE COMING FORWARD WITH A SHARP BUT SHORT CRITICISM OF THE RABIN VISIT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO GDR SENSITIVITES ON THIS ISSUE AND RELUCTANCE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE FIRST OFFICAIL VISIT BY AN ISRAELI LEADER ON GERMAN SOIL WAS PAID TO THE FRG. COOPER

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